(b) if so, the details of such a Scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Research Institute has attempted to modernise the system of drip irrigation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central Tobacco Research Institute of ICAR has standardised technologies of drip and sprinkler systems of irrigation for cultivation of Flue Cured Virginia (F.C.V.) tobacco in northern light soils of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Drip irrigation gives water economy of about 25—30%. Spinkler system of irrigation was recommended up to first harvest followed by surface irrigation. Water economy was observed to an extent of 15—20%.

Role of ICAR in Drip Irrigation

2483. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the role of the ICAR in helping farmers in Andhra Pradesh to take to drip irrigation; and

(b) whether any efforts have been made to familiarise extension officers and the Agriculture Department of the benefits of drip irrigation in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The ICAR supports research in various fields including Water Management in State Agricultural Universities including Andhra Pradesh (Agricultural Universities (APAU). A Research Centre of the ICAR sponsored All India Coordinated Project on 'Management of Salt Affected Soils and Use of Saline Water in Agriculture' is located at Bapatla (APAU). In this project, scentists are developing techniques for efficient use of water including through drip irrigation.

(b) Training of extension officials and farmers, and transfer of technologies is undertaken by the State Agricultural University/State Department of Agriculture. However, the Govt. of India is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of "Promotion of the use of Plastics in Agriculture" covering *inter alia* promotion of Drip Irrigation technology in the country including in Andhra Pradesh. The scheme covers assistance to the farmers for installation of drip systems, demonstration of drip irrigation in Govt. farms and training of the departmental officers and farmers. For the State of Andhra Pradesh, training of farmers is being organised at Plastics Development Centre located at Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad.

Hazards due to spray of Insecticides/ Pesticides

2484. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of human deaths take place while they engage themselves in spray of Insecticide/pesticide operations;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to save such lives;

(c) whether such chemically sprayed crops, vegetables and fruit also cause health hazard when consumed by human beings; and

(d) whether Government have set up some machinery to monitor the effect/ incidence of the impact as mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No specific information regarding deaths occurring due to spray of pesticides in agricultural sector has come to the notice of the Government. As per the information provided by State/UT Governments, the statement showing the number of pesticides poisoning cases (including suicides) is enclosed (*see* below).

(b) The measures taken by the Government